



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

September 11, 2002

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Don Sloma, Executive Director

RE: PROPOSED POLICY ON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH STAFF MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEE OR WORKING GROUP PARTNERSHIPS

Background and Summary:

Board members have directed staff to initiate or participate in a wide variety of collaborative efforts with other government agencies, professional associations and community groups to advance its work. At present, Board staffers are regular participants or observers in some twenty-six such organizations. (Attachment I is a listing of these memberships as of September 2002.)

Because of the wide variety of public and private entities and missions of these Board partners, questions have arisen about the ethics, legality and appropriateness of Board staff involvement with these groups. While each situation may vary, I believe some clear and consistent policy should be in place to assure the Board and the public that Board staffers' participation with these partners is consistent with the Board's statutory authority, role, mission and priorities.

The purpose of this policy is to provide certain limitations, general guidance and increased clarity to assure that Board staffers participate in partnership activities within applicable state laws and rules in ways that advance the Board's interests and objectives.

The proposed policy (attached) states that its scope is limited to board staff's participation in public or private committees or workgroups while on state time, it clarifies that existing legal and ethical rules and guidelines for public employees apply, that participation in legislative advocacy groups not comprised of Board members is prohibited, but that board staff's participation with public and private groups in ways that advance the board's clearly stated interests is encouraged. The policy establishes a mechanism for board staff's development of work products as part of their participation in partnership organizations and outlines a mechanism for handling complaints of violations of this policy.

Recommended Board Action:

The Board should approve the proposed policy on state Board of Health staff member participation in committee or working group partnerships.



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